
From: US EPA New England Region <noreply-subscriptions@epa.gov>
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2019

Informational Meeting to be held on the Olin Chemical Superfund Site in Wilmington, Mass.

WILMINGTON, MASS. — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an open house and informational meeting to discuss environmental studies and cleanup alternatives related to the Olin Chemical Superfund Site (Site) on Tuesday, Oct. 22. This event is open to the public.

What: Olin Chemical Superfund Site Open House and Informational Meeting

When: Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Open House: 5:30 – 6:45 PM
Informational Meeting: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Where: Wilmington High School Auditorium
159 Church Street
Wilmington, Mass.

Representatives from EPA will be available to talk individually to the public during the open house. EPA will then provide a brief presentation on the recent environmental studies conducted at the Site, as well as the range of cleanup options currently under consideration. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The Site, including the 53-acre Olin property, was listed on the National Priorities List (EPA's national list of Superfund sites) in April 2006. In June 2007, EPA reached a voluntary settlement agreement with three responsible parties: Olin Corporation, American Biltrite Inc., and Stepan Company. Under this agreement, the parties have funded and are performing a comprehensive study of the nature and extent of contamination originating from the Eames Street Olin property. The studies associated with the Olin property, as well as regional surface water and sediment, were generally completed in 2015 and are documented in a report referred to as "Final Remedial Investigation Report Operable Unit 1 & Operable Unit 2, July 24, 2015." Studies to characterize the full extent of groundwater contamination are ongoing.

Under the 2007 settlement agreement, Olin and the other parties continue to operate a groundwater containment and treatment system for a limited area of the Olin property. A temporary cap and slurry wall are also being maintained for the feature on the Olin property referred to as the "Containment Area." In 2012, Olin and the other parties also installed a pilot extraction well to evaluate the feasibility of removing Dense Aqueous Phase Liquid (DAPL) from the aquifer – DAPL being the pool of chemicals sitting on top of bedrock. This pilot system has removed about 1 million gallons of DAPL to date and continues to operate. Olin and the other parties also fund EPA's oversight.

The regional groundwater hydrology and chemical impacts from the Site are complex and not yet fully understood. While enough progress has been made to propose interim cleanup alternatives, additional studies are required to determine the full nature and extent of groundwater contamination. Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports which summarize the groundwater studies to date and present the range of available interim cleanup alternatives will soon be issued.

Chemical manufacturing began at the Olin property, located at 51 Eames Street in Wilmington, Mass. in 1953. Prior to 1970, chemicals were discharged into several unlined pits and ponds in the central portion of the property. In 1980, the property was purchased by Olin. The facility was used to produce blowing agents, stabilizers, antioxidants and other specialized chemicals for the rubber and plastics industry. The Site has a long history of investigation and clean-up actions, both under EPA oversight and previously under the authority of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), which date back to the 1980's.

Principal contaminants found at the Site include N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) – the main contaminant of concern. Other contaminants include ammonia, chloride, sodium, sulfate, chromium, trimethylpentenes, and petroleum hydrocarbons.

More information on the Olin Chemical Superfund Site: www.epa.gov/superfund/olin

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